Untested Drug Samples

1105. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1000 samples of drugs collected by the inspectors of Drug Control Department are lying untested in the laboratory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these samples are likely to be tested?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Information in respect of sample collection by all the State Drugs Control Departments is not maintained centrally. The sample collection as well as the time taken to test the samples varies from State to State depending upon the available infrastructure and manpower. It has been the endeavour of Government of India to ensure that the pendency period is progressively reduced by assisting the States in building and strengthening their testing capacities.

A comprehensive scheme has been undertaken by the Government of India under the World Bank Capacity Building project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs, where one of the objectives is to increase the numbers of drugs samples tested in the country from the present level of about 38,000 samples per year to one lakh samples per year. The second important objective of this scheme is to reduce the delays in testing and bring down reporting time to less than a month. To achieve these objectives the scheme envisages the augmentation of the infrastructural facilities in State Government Laboratories and training of drug regulatory and testing manpower.

Prohibition of Smoking at Public Places

†1106. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons against whom action has been taken under the Prohibition of Smoking at Public Places Act, State-wise; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any decrease in the number of smokers has taken place after the implementation of the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) It is for the respective State Governments to implement various provisions of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 including banning of smoking in public places. Data regarding action taken against persons smoking and public places is not centrally maintained.

Sub-Standard Medicines

1107. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 per cent drugs in the market are sub-standard;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken against the manufacturers and chemists who supply sub-standard medicines which play havoc for the patients;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are about 29 drug inspectors to keep tab on 10,000 chemist shops and 715 manufacturing units in the Capital; and

(d) if so, the number of shops manufacturing units inspected by them during the last two years and the number of persons booked by them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No Sir. As per the feedback available from the Drugs Controllers of States/UT for the period 2003-2004, 39465 samples were tested out of which 3441 samples were found to be not of standard quality which is 8.72%. So far as NCT of Delhi is concerned, the percentage occurance of not of standard quality drugs for the period 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 is 4.3 and 2.5 percent based on the test reports received by the Drugs Control Administration, Delhi.

(b) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder, the responsibility of regulate manufacture and sale of drugs